

# THOMAS COUNTY CAT.

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## A HAMMOCK HORROR.

Softly she is singing,  
Sweet and low,  
In a hammock swinging  
To and fro.  
Just a yard above her  
Hangs a worm,  
Writhing under cover—  
See him squirm!  
Now the maid sings louder,  
Strong and high;  
Nothing doth or ercious her  
Life's bright sky.  
Soon the worm gets weary,  
Lies quiet;  
Like a summer berry,  
Down it slips.  
Maiden's dream is open—  
In a word—  
Just at present no pen  
Tells her tale.  
Still the hammock's swinging  
Overhead;  
Hushed the maiden's singing—  
Worm is dead.  
—N. Y. Morning Journal.

## DIAMOND DECEPTIONS.

Some of the Tricks Resorted to  
by Swindlers.

Persons Not Experts Taken in by Numerous  
Clever Devices—Some Famous  
Cases—Other Interesting Talk  
About Gems and Their  
Wearers.

"Is there a large amount of imposition  
at present in your business?"  
asked a Tribune reporter of a diamond  
dealer.

"In an article where not one in a  
hundred has any knowledge whatever,  
and not more than one in 10,000 is a  
good judge, there must necessarily be  
a good deal of imposition. The methods  
of cheating may be divided into three  
classes. The first and most common is  
when flawed, imperfect, or off-colored  
diamonds are sold for first-water, flaw-  
less gems. This takes place every day  
and every hour of the day. Those who  
are the principal sufferers are women  
and children, who are easily deceived  
by smart persons who snatch at a so-called  
bargain and deserve what they get. If  
people would remember that fine dia-  
monds are the easiest things to sell  
in the world, that any jeweler who  
deals in gems is always willing to pur-  
chase at a small reduction from current  
rates, they would not be bitten so often.  
The next two methods are swindling  
pure and simple. There are several  
precious stones which are of an entirely  
different composition to the diamond,  
but resemble that gem so closely that  
none but experts can distinguish them.  
Even experts have often to test these  
before they can discover the imposition.  
The basis of the diamond is carbon. The  
basis of the stones I now allude to is  
aluminum, and they are known under the  
generic term 'caradoms.' The principal  
stones substituted and sold for diamonds  
are the white sapphire, white topaz and  
the zircon or jargon. White sapphire  
and topaz are worth from \$2 to \$9 a  
carat, zircon much less. But these  
stones have been and are still sold  
for diamonds at prices ranging from  
one-half to one-tenth of their real value.  
They can be at once  
detected by their inferior  
hardness and difference in specific  
gravity. The specific gravity of the  
diamond is 3.5, that of white sapphire  
and topaz is 3.5, zircon 4.4. The last  
method of swindling is when imitation  
stones made in various ways are sold  
for the genuine article. More of this is  
carried on than you would think possi-  
ble. In Europe, especially in Paris, the  
art of making fine imitations of dia-  
monds has been brought to perfection.  
Many of these, of course, are sold for  
what they are, many are made to order  
for wealthy people who are ignorant  
of the difficulties of raising money on  
diamonds, and have these stones set in  
the same manner to wear while the real  
article is out of their reach, but large  
quantities are set in fine style and sold  
for first-water diamonds. A dealer or  
jeweler is seldom victimized in this way,  
except when one or two stones are  
mixed with very large parcels.

"Have there been any very successful  
frauds in your line lately?"  
"There is always something going on,  
but the most extensive and successful  
swindle in which I as well as a great  
many others suffered first came into  
operation about two years ago. It was  
the costing system. By satisfying off-  
colored flawless stones—worth about  
\$25 a carat—in a peculiar solution it  
gave them the appearance of first-water  
goods, worth \$100 a carat. The solution  
soon wears off, or it may be removed by  
a good application of hot soap-suds.  
But the trade was quite unacquainted  
with this method, and before we got to  
the bottom of it the shippers had made  
an enormous pile. This is still being  
practiced at present to a small extent,  
principally for the working of pawn-  
brokers."

"Can you call to mind any well-  
planned gem confidence operations that  
have not been heard of?"  
"Did you ever hear of the clever  
dodge worked in London in 1881 by  
one of the best-known 'con' practi-  
tioners of New York? He went to Lon-  
don and purchased in Hatton Garden a  
magnificent stone weighing about  
twelve and a half carats. He paid be-  
tween \$7,000 and \$8,000 for it. He  
then made his way to Paris and put the  
stone in the hands of the best maker of  
paste goods and ordered thirty false-  
similes of it. He then had the whole of  
them mounted in rings of exactly the  
same design. In London are many  
large pawnbrokers who deal in sums of  
\$5,000 and upwards for short terms—  
fourteen days or so—at one-half or  
three-fourths per cent. He left the origi-  
nal ring with each of them in turn,  
took it out again, and replaced it two  
or three times until they were well ac-  
quainted with him and the gem. One  
Saturday, which is their busy day, he  
rushed around to the pawn collection  
and left one of the imitations for some  
ranging from \$4,000 to \$6,000. He  
placed twenty-eight in all. They pos-  
sibly did not examine them closely, as  
he was so well known and his appear-  
ance and manners were calculated to  
arouse suspicion. The shrewdest  
pawnbrokers in London were taken in  
by the scheme. The Aitkenboroughs  
(this family have about eight establish-  
ments in five of these rings, the Russells  
had three, and so forth. A much  
cleverer thought not such an extensive  
scheme was worked in Paris in 1878 by  
a notorious French 'chevalier de indus-  
trie.' He had a magnificent stone worth  
\$10,000 drawn of which he also had  
several hundred false ones. He then sent  
the most beautiful of these to the

ring, asked him how much he would  
charge to reset it in a combination set-  
ting, or in a ring, sapphire and stud.  
The jeweler named an amount which he  
said was much more than he wished to  
spend, as the stone was only an imitation  
and not worth the outlay. The  
jeweler was astonished to hear that the  
fine stone he had in his hand was an  
imitation, and testing it slightly, ascertained  
the owner that it was a real diamond.  
At this the sharper laughed and stated  
he had bought it in Baden Baden from a  
gambler out of luck for 250 francs and  
that the jeweler must be mistaken.  
He willingly left it until next day for  
further testing. When he came the  
following day the jeweler assured him  
it was a real diamond (as he well knew)  
and to back his opinion offered to give  
him 22,500 francs for it. The sharper  
still asserted that the jeweler was mis-  
taken, but agreed to sell it for that  
price on condition that he would not be  
held responsible if it was afterwards  
discovered to be an imitation. This  
was agreed to and a document was  
drawn up by which the jeweler agreed to  
pay 22,500 francs for the ring and the  
finder of the ring, who had bought it, and  
still believed it to be imitation, not re-  
sponsible after the sale. The transaction  
was concluded in the presence of  
witnesses. Just before the money was  
paid over and the ring delivered, the  
sharp skillfully substituted the imita-  
tion for the real diamond. In a few  
days afterwards, when the fraud  
was discovered, although the scheme  
was still on the spot, the dupe had no  
remedy, as in the document he had  
signed, he had agreed to purchase the  
stone whether imitation or not. I could  
tell you many well-verified anecdotes of  
this description, but they are all varia-  
tions of one plan. After confidence is  
inspired, a sudden skillful stroke is  
played which is generally undiscovered  
until it is too late."

"Is it a fact that stones having all the  
properties of the diamond have been  
produced by scientific means?"  
"The first effort to produce diamonds  
dates back to the middle ages. It must  
be admitted, however, that during the  
last half century the system of experi-  
ments, especially in France, has been  
especially, have been awarded with  
some amount of success. Such great  
minds as Sir David Brewster, Dr. La-  
tour, Gannal, Deprez, etc., have given  
themselves to this exciting pursuit.  
The scope and method of their experi-  
ments are too involved for a brief ex-  
planation. It is understood, however, that  
the experiments of Deprez and De Chan-  
courts (which are the most recent)  
show that diamonds can be produced by  
the action of strong electric currents and  
intense heat. The gems produced so  
far have been of the very smallest size;  
the only problem now is whether gems  
of merchantable dimensions can be  
manufactured in this manner."  
A few days ago a Tribune reporter  
renewed his acquaintance with a mem-  
ber of one of the largest New York  
firms who import precious stones. After  
some general conversation the talked  
veered around to the present condition  
of the gem business. "How have you  
found this trip?" was asked.  
"Tolerably good," replied the im-  
portant.

"What are the quotations for dia-  
monds now. Are they higher or lower  
than in former years?"  
"That all depends on the grade. The  
tendency for the last few years seems  
to be as follows: For old mine stones  
or fine specimens of other kinds the  
price is almost stationary, or if there is  
any change it is in the upward direction.  
The flawed or imperfect goods are con-  
tinually going down, and from the  
present outlook it is hard to say what  
will be the ultimate value of the stuff."  
"I have heard a great deal of old mine  
stones; what does the term mean?"  
"An old mine stone originally was a  
gem of peculiar color and especially  
fine fire found in the Golconda district.  
Now the term is much broader. It em-  
braces all stones of the bluish white cast  
so prized by connoisseurs. Many called  
old mine now were found in Brazil,  
some fine specimens even in Africa.  
These gems, wherever found, always  
command the highest prices, that is to  
say for white stones, of course, a rarity  
in the shape of a fine black or rose-  
colored diamond always brings an extra-  
ordinary price."

"What is the present selling price of  
fine stones?"  
"Storekeepers generally ask between  
\$100 and \$125 for flawless carat stones  
of the first water. Our carat is the  
metric, and in England and in ordinary  
trade it is 1.774 grains. The price I  
have named is that usually obtained for  
average fine stones, but there are  
always especially fine gems in the mar-  
ket which bring almost double that  
amount. I have at present a paper of  
carat stones that I can not sell under  
\$1,000 a carat. To make the average  
profit on these goods the storekeeper  
will have to get from \$220 to \$230 per  
carat for them."

"How do you compute the value of  
stones above a carat in weight?"  
"The old rule formulated by Tavernier  
two centuries ago was that the prices  
of two diamonds are proportional to  
the square of their weight. According  
to this, if a one carat stone of the first  
water is worth \$100, a two-carat stone  
will be worth \$400, and so on. This rule,  
which was quite correct at that time,  
would now be very misleading.  
I assign to diamonds a much higher  
price than at present. Here is the list  
we go by now, prepared during the last  
ten years by the best authorities in  
America:

1 carat. \$250. 1/2 carat. \$125. 1/4 carat. \$62.50.  
3/8 carat. \$93.75. 1/2 carat. \$187.50.  
3/4 carat. \$281.25. 1 carat. \$375.00.  
1 1/4 carat. \$562.50. 1 1/2 carat. \$843.75.  
1 3/4 carat. \$1,268.75. 2 carat. \$1,875.00.  
2 1/4 carat. \$2,812.50. 2 1/2 carat. \$4,218.75.  
2 3/4 carat. \$5,625.00. 3 carat. \$8,437.50.  
3 1/4 carat. \$12,687.50. 3 1/2 carat. \$18,750.00.  
3 3/4 carat. \$25,312.50. 4 carat. \$37,500.00.  
4 1/4 carat. \$56,250.00. 4 1/2 carat. \$84,375.00.  
4 3/4 carat. \$112,687.50. 5 carat. \$168,750.00.  
5 1/4 carat. \$253,125.00. 5 1/2 carat. \$375,000.00.  
5 3/4 carat. \$512,687.50. 6 carat. \$750,000.00.  
6 1/4 carat. \$1,126,875.00. 6 1/2 carat. \$1,687,500.00.  
6 3/4 carat. \$2,253,125.00. 7 carat. \$3,375,000.00.  
7 1/4 carat. \$5,126,875.00. 7 1/2 carat. \$7,500,000.00.  
7 3/4 carat. \$10,268,750.00. 8 carat. \$15,000,000.00.  
8 1/4 carat. \$22,531,250.00. 8 1/2 carat. \$33,750,000.00.  
8 3/4 carat. \$45,312,500.00. 9 carat. \$67,500,000.00.  
9 1/4 carat. \$101,268,750.00. 9 1/2 carat. \$151,875,000.00.  
9 3/4 carat. \$202,687,500.00. 10 carat. \$300,000,000.00.  
10 1/4 carat. \$453,125,000.00. 10 1/2 carat. \$675,000,000.00.  
10 3/4 carat. \$912,687,500.00. 11 carat. \$1,350,000,000.00.  
11 1/4 carat. \$2,026,875,000.00. 11 1/2 carat. \$3,037,500,000.00.  
11 3/4 carat. \$4,268,750,000.00. 12 carat. \$6,375,000,000.00.  
12 1/4 carat. \$9,531,250,000.00. 12 1/2 carat. \$14,250,000,000.00.  
12 3/4 carat. \$19,531,250,000.00. 13 carat. \$28,125,000,000.00.  
13 1/4 carat. \$42,187,500,000.00. 13 1/2 carat. \$63,281,250,000.00.  
13 3/4 carat. \$86,250,000,000.00. 14 carat. \$126,875,000,000.00.  
14 1/4 carat. \$190,312,500,000.00. 14 1/2 carat. \$281,250,000,000.00.  
14 3/4 carat. \$390,625,000,000.00. 15 carat. \$562,500,000,000.00.  
15 1/4 carat. \$843,750,000,000.00. 15 1/2 carat. \$1,268,750,000,000.00.  
15 3/4 carat. \$1,753,125,000,000.00. 16 carat. \$2,500,000,000,000.00.  
16 1/4 carat. \$3,750,000,000,000.00. 16 1/2 carat. \$5,625,000,000,000.00.  
16 3/4 carat. \$7,812,500,000,000.00. 17 carat. \$11,250,000,000,000.00.  
17 1/4 carat. \$16,875,000,000,000.00. 17 1/2 carat. \$25,312,500,000,000.00.  
17 3/4 carat. \$35,937,500,000,000.00. 18 carat. \$52,500,000,000,000.00.  
18 1/4 carat. \$78,750,000,000,000.00. 18 1/2 carat. \$117,562,500,000,000.00.  
18 3/4 carat. \$163,125,000,000,000.00. 19 carat. \$243,750,000,000,000.00.  
19 1/4 carat. \$365,625,000,000,000.00. 19 1/2 carat. \$548,437,500,000,000.00.  
19 3/4 carat. \$771,875,000,000,000.00. 20 carat. \$1,125,000,000,000,000.00.  
20 1/4 carat. \$1,687,500,000,000,000.00. 20 1/2 carat. \$2,531,250,000,000,000.00.  
20 3/4 carat. \$3,656,250,000,000,000.00. 21 carat. \$5,250,000,000,000,000.00.  
21 1/4 carat. \$7,875,000,000,000,000.00. 21 1/2 carat. \$11,756,250,000,000,000.00.  
21 3/4 carat. \$17,062,500,000,000,000.00. 22 carat. \$25,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
22 1/4 carat. \$37,500,000,000,000,000.00. 22 1/2 carat. \$56,250,000,000,000,000.00.  
22 3/4 carat. \$82,687,500,000,000,000.00. 23 carat. \$118,750,000,000,000,000.00.  
23 1/4 carat. \$178,125,000,000,000,000.00. 23 1/2 carat. \$267,187,500,000,000,000.00.  
23 3/4 carat. \$390,625,000,000,000,000.00. 24 carat. \$562,500,000,000,000,000.00.  
24 1/4 carat. \$843,750,000,000,000,000.00. 24 1/2 carat. \$1,268,750,000,000,000,000.00.  
24 3/4 carat. \$1,875,000,000,000,000,000.00. 25 carat. \$2,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
25 1/4 carat. \$3,750,000,000,000,000,000.00. 25 1/2 carat. \$5,625,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
25 3/4 carat. \$8,268,750,000,000,000,000.00. 26 carat. \$11,875,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
26 1/4 carat. \$17,812,500,000,000,000,000.00. 26 1/2 carat. \$26,718,750,000,000,000,000.00.  
26 3/4 carat. \$39,062,500,000,000,000,000.00. 27 carat. \$56,250,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
27 1/4 carat. \$84,375,000,000,000,000,000.00. 27 1/2 carat. \$126,562,500,000,000,000,000.00.  
27 3/4 carat. \$187,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 28 carat. \$275,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
28 1/4 carat. \$412,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 28 1/2 carat. \$618,750,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
28 3/4 carat. \$906,250,000,000,000,000,000.00. 29 carat. \$1,312,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
29 1/4 carat. \$1,968,750,000,000,000,000,000.00. 29 1/2 carat. \$290,625,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
29 3/4 carat. \$437,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 30 carat. \$637,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
30 1/4 carat. \$956,250,000,000,000,000,000.00. 30 1/2 carat. \$1,437,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
30 3/4 carat. \$2,156,250,000,000,000,000,000.00. 31 carat. \$3,187,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
31 1/4 carat. \$478,125,000,000,000,000,000.00. 31 1/2 carat. \$717,187,500,000,000,000,000.00.  
31 3/4 carat. \$1,076,875,000,000,000,000,000.00. 32 carat. \$4,750,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
32 1/4 carat. \$712,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 32 1/2 carat. \$1,068,750,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
32 3/4 carat. \$1,603,125,000,000,000,000,000.00. 33 carat. \$6,937,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
33 1/4 carat. \$1,040,625,000,000,000,000,000.00. 33 1/2 carat. \$1,560,937,500,000,000,000,000.00.  
33 3/4 carat. \$2,340,625,000,000,000,000,000.00. 34 carat. \$10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
34 1/4 carat. \$1,500,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 34 1/2 carat. \$2,250,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
34 3/4 carat. \$3,375,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 35 carat. \$14,062,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
35 1/4 carat. \$2,109,375,000,000,000,000,000.00. 35 1/2 carat. \$3,164,062,500,000,000,000,000.00.  
35 3/4 carat. \$4,746,875,000,000,000,000,000.00. 36 carat. \$20,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
36 1/4 carat. \$3,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 36 1/2 carat. \$4,500,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
36 3/4 carat. \$6,750,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 37 carat. \$28,125,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
37 1/4 carat. \$4,218,750,000,000,000,000,000.00. 37 1/2 carat. \$6,328,125,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
37 3/4 carat. \$9,492,187,500,000,000,000,000.00. 38 carat. \$39,062,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
38 1/4 carat. \$5,859,375,000,000,000,000,000.00. 38 1/2 carat. \$8,789,062,500,000,000,000,000.00.  
38 3/4 carat. \$13,183,125,000,000,000,000,000.00. 39 carat. \$52,500,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
39 1/4 carat. \$7,875,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 39 1/2 carat. \$11,812,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
39 3/4 carat. \$17,718,750,000,000,000,000,000.00. 40 carat. \$68,750,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
40 1/4 carat. \$10,312,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 40 1/2 carat. \$15,468,750,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
40 3/4 carat. \$23,203,125,000,000,000,000,000.00. 41 carat. \$84,375,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
41 1/4 carat. \$12,656,250,000,000,000,000,000.00. 41 1/2 carat. \$18,984,375,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
41 3/4 carat. \$28,476,562,500,000,000,000,000.00. 42 carat. \$105,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
42 1/4 carat. \$15,750,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 42 1/2 carat. \$23,625,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
42 3/4 carat. \$35,437,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 43 carat. \$126,875,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
43 1/4 carat. \$19,031,250,000,000,000,000,000.00. 43 1/2 carat. \$28,546,875,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
43 3/4 carat. \$42,820,312,500,000,000,000,000.00. 44 carat. \$156,250,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
44 1/4 carat. \$23,437,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 44 1/2 carat. \$35,156,250,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
44 3/4 carat. \$52,734,375,000,000,000,000,000.00. 45 carat. \$196,875,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
45 1/4 carat. \$29,531,250,000,000,000,000,000.00. 45 1/2 carat. \$44,300,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
45 3/4 carat. \$66,450,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 46 carat. \$225,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
46 1/4 carat. \$33,750,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 46 1/2 carat. \$50,625,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
46 3/4 carat. \$75,937,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 47 carat. \$281,250,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
47 1/4 carat. \$42,187,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 47 1/2 carat. \$63,281,250,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
47 3/4 carat. \$94,921,875,000,000,000,000,000.00. 48 carat. \$337,500,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
48 1/4 carat. \$50,625,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 48 1/2 carat. \$75,937,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
48 3/4 carat. \$113,906,250,000,000,000,000,000.00. 49 carat. \$406,250,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
49 1/4 carat. \$60,937,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 49 1/2 carat. \$91,406,250,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
49 3/4 carat. \$137,109,375,000,000,000,000,000.00. 50 carat. \$500,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
50 1/4 carat. \$75,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 50 1/2 carat. \$112,500,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
50 3/4 carat. \$168,750,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 51 carat. \$553,125,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
51 1/4 carat. \$82,968,750,000,000,000,000,000.00. 51 1/2 carat. \$124,453,125,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
51 3/4 carat. \$186,679,687,500,000,000,000,000.00. 52 carat. \$618,750,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
52 1/4 carat. \$92,812,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 52 1/2 carat. \$139,218,750,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
52 3/4 carat. \$208,828,125,000,000,000,000,000.00. 53 carat. \$675,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
53 1/4 carat. \$101,250,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 53 1/2 carat. \$151,875,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
53 3/4 carat. \$227,812,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 54 carat. \$731,250,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
54 1/4 carat. \$109,687,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 54 1/2 carat. \$164,531,250,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
54 3/4 carat. \$246,796,875,000,000,000,000,000.00. 55 carat. \$787,500,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
55 1/4 carat. \$118,125,000,000,000,000,000,000.00. 55 1/2 carat. \$177,187,500,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
55 3/4 carat. \$265,781,250,000,000,000,000,000.00. 56 carat. \$843,750,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
56 1/4 carat. \$126,562,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 56 1/2 carat. \$189,843,750,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
56 3/4 carat. \$284,765,625,000,000,000,000,000.00. 57 carat. \$906,250,000,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
57 1/4 carat. \$135,937,500,000,000,000,000,000.00. 57 1/2 carat. \$203,906,250,000,000,000,000,000.00.  
57 3/4 carat. \$305